



FEMA

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Disaster News

FEMA Provides More Than \$1.4 Million to Ventura County for Debris Removal

PASADENA, Calif. — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced more than \$1.4 million in Public Assistance funding to reimburse Ventura County for costs associated with removing debris from the storms of December 27, 2004 – January 11, 2005.

“In keeping our commitment to help communities recover from the winter storms, FEMA has reimbursed Ventura County for eligible costs incurred to remove debris from county roads following the storms,” said Federal Coordinating Officer David Fukutomi.

On February 4, President Bush declared Ventura County eligible for public and individual assistance at the request of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for damages that occurred during the late December and early January storms. The \$1.46 million represents 75% of the projects total cost, with the state paying 18.75 percent and the county contributing the remaining 6.25 percent.

“We recognize the impact this winter's storms have placed on local budgets,” said Henry Renteria, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and state coordinating officer for the disaster. “The \$365,000 in state funding approved for the work on this project, combined with the federal reimbursements announced today, will help ease some of the burden the storms have placed on county's budget by reducing its share of eligible costs to less than seven percent.”

Public Assistance categories for eligibility can include debris removal; immediate protective measures, including overtime pay for emergency workers; repair of roads and bridges; repair of water control facilities; repair of public buildings and equipment; repair of public utilities; and repair of recreational facilities such as parks.

OES coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for ensuring California's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery efforts.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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